

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**

***Adult Learning Focused Institution (ALFI)  
Project Proposal***

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**Working toward  
Institutional Goals for Improvement**

Submitted to  
KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
June 1, 2009

**see blue.**

# ***Adult Learning Focused Institution (ALFI) Project Proposal*** **Working toward Institutional Goals for Improvement**

## **ANALYSIS OF NEED**

Provost Kumble R. Subbaswamy has called for more creative approaches to serving the needs of the University of Kentucky undergraduate student population with the University's ongoing "War on Attrition." In 2008 a task force worked to find out more about the adult learner population at UK. According to the data gleaned from the ALFI Toolkit from the Council on Adult & Experiential Education (CAEL), the University of Kentucky is not what CAEL would identify as an "adult friendly" campus. Administrators acknowledge that there is little explicit attention given to adult learners (or recognition of their life conditions) in the stated policies or procedures of the University.

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The Provost approved that the University move forward with the following goals for improving recruitment and retention of adult learners. Working together with staff in Enrollment Management, the Office of Institutional Research and with faculty leadership in the colleges, the Office of Undergraduate Education will focus more attention on the unique needs of adult learners at the University of Kentucky.

## **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

The University proposes to:

1. Create a leave of absence category for undergraduate students allowing for adult learners to move in and out of the University more effectively as their outside life intervenes in their academic careers;
2. Assess regularly the effectiveness of adult student services and track enrollment/retention/graduation;
3. Explore ways in which selected departments and colleges can offer more evening/weekend, summer, independent studies and distance learning content – focusing on those specifically targeted by departments to allow students to complete full programs in the sequence they need; and,
4. Provide additional centralized resources for the Project Graduate initiative by Improving the enrollment and advisement processes for adult students.

## **EVALUATION PLAN**

The Office of Undergraduate Education will work with the Provost's senior staff to search for and hire a consultant to craft a business plan for delivering niche programs in non-traditional

formats and times. The plan should be delivered for the Provost's review by the end of September 2009. The Director of Retention and Student Success will work with the Office of Institutional Research and the staff in the Office of Enrollment Management to determine and set goals for increasing communications and retention rates for adult learners. These goals will include at least 30% response rate for student surveys, identification of academic alerts about adult learners and intervention for at least 75% of those alerts submitted by faculty.

The Office of Enrollment Management will work with the Provost's senior staff to search for and purchase licenses for software that improves the University's current degree audit process. This new functionality should improve the intake process for the Office of Adult Student Services and supporting adult learners in their planning, especially as they move to the appropriate advisors in the colleges. This functionality will allow students and advisors to create and maintain a detailed term-by-term, multi-year academic path to graduation. This software should also support the goals set by the business plan in identifying demands for niche programs. The search process should end in a successful contract by June 30, 2010.

#### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

| <b>Activity</b>  | <b>Cost FY 09-10</b>                                  |
|--|---|
| Explore best practices and purchase academic degree planner for use by adult learners so to improve recruiting, intake procedures by the Office of Adult Student Services -- provide more clarity in goal-setting and assure more strategic planning for departments offering majors that are in demand          | \$30,000  |
| Hire outside expert in higher education budget planning to craft a business plan focusing on revising UK's Summer, Evening/Weekend, Independent Studies and Distance Learning funding models so to improve incentives and sustain efficiencies in offering courses and programs most in demand by adult learners | \$10,000<br>(left over from<br>FY08-09<br>allocation) |